IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

United States District Court Southern District of Texas FILED SFP 2 4 2009

EQUAL WMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY	§	
COMMISSION,	§	· Clerk of Court
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	CIVIL ACTION NO.
v.	§	
	§	COMPLAINT
SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO. D/B/A	§	
SEARS #1217,	§	JURY TRIAL DEMAND
	§	
Defendant.	§	

NATURE OF THE ACTION

This is an action under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, to correct unlawful employment practices on the basis of age and to provide appropriate relief to Robert D. Jennell, an individual over 40 years of age. This complaint alleges that Defendant, Sears, Roebuck & Co. d/b/a Sears #1217 ("Sears"), failed to hire Robert D. Jennell, then age 62, into a loss prevention/asset protection associate position in its Loss Prevention Department because of his age.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 451, 1331, 1337, 1343 and 1345. This action is authorized and instituted pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §626(b) (the "ADEA"), which incorporates by reference Sections 16(c) and 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (the "FLSA"), as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(c) and 217.

- 2. The employment practices alleged to be unlawful were committed within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division.
- 3. Plaintiff, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "Commission"), is the agency of the United States of America charged with the administration, interpretation and enforcement of the ADEA, and is expressly authorized to bring this action by Section 7(b) of the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. § 626(b), as amended by Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1978, 92 Stat. 3781, and by Public Law 98-532 (1984), 98 Stat. 2705.
- 4. At all relevant times, Defendant Sears has continuously been a New York corporation doing business in the State of Texas and the City of Corpus Christi, and has continuously had at least twenty (20) employees.
- 5. At all relevant times Defendant Sears has continuously been an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Sections 11(b), (g) and (h) of the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 630(b), (g) and (h).

CONCILIATION

6. Prior to institution of this lawsuit, the Commission's representatives attempted to eliminate the unlawful employment practices alleged below and to effect voluntary compliance with the ADEA through informal methods of conciliation, conference and persuasion within the meaning of Section 7(b) of the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. § 626(b).

STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

7. Since at least July of 2007, Defendant Sears engaged in unlawful employment practices at its Corpus Christi, Texas, location in violation of §623(a) of the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. §

- 623(a) by failing to hire Robert D. Jennell, who is over 40 years of age, into a loss prevention/asset protection position in its Loss Prevention Department because of his age.
- 8. The effect of the practices complained of in paragraph seven above has been to deprive Robert D. Jennell of equal employment opportunities and to otherwise adversely affect his status as an applicant for employment because of his age.
- 9. The unlawful employment practices complained of in paragraph seven above were willful within the meaning of Section 7(b) of the ADEA, 29 U.S.C. § 626(b).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Grant a permanent injunction ensuring enjoining Defendant Sears, its officers, successors, assigns, and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from failing to hire individuals on the basis of their age and from engaging in discriminatory hiring practices, and from any other employment practice which discriminates on the basis of age against individuals 40 years of age and older;
- B. Order Defendant Sears to institute and carry out policies, practices and programs which provide equal employment opportunities for individuals 40 years of age and older, and which eradicate the effects of its past and present unlawful employment practices;
- C. Grant a judgment requiring Defendant Sears to pay Robert D. Jennell appropriate back wages in an amount to be determined at trial, and an equal sum as liquidated damages, or prejudgment interest in lieu thereof, which resulted from actions complained of above;
- D. Order Defendant Sears to make whole Robert D. Jennell who was adversely affected by the unlawful practices described above, by providing the affirmative relief necessary to eradicate the effects of its unlawful practices, including but not limited to rightful-place hiring

of Robert D. Jennell into a loss prevention/asset protection associate position or to a comparable position in its Loss Prevention Department, or front pay in lieu thereof;

- E. Grant such further relief as the Court deems necessary and proper in the public interest: and
 - F. Award the Commission its costs in this action.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

The Commission requests a jury trial on all questions of fact raised by its Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS			
U.S. Equal Employ	yment Opportunity Commission	Sears, Roebuck	Sears, Roebuck and Co. d/b/a Sears #1217			
(b) County of Residence (EX	of First Listed Plaintiff (CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	NOTE: IN LAN	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)	Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
■ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) P7 Citizen of This State				
2 U.S. Government	🗇 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State				
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	of Business In A 3 Greign Nation	Another State		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only)	1 oroiga Country				
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES		
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Other Personal Injury 385 Property Damage Product Liability 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Injury 385 Property Damage Product Liability 38	620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ □ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge □ 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information □ Act □ 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
V. ORIGIN Original Proceeding Proceeding Original Original Proceeding Original Proceeding						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of cause: This is an action to correct unlawful	employment practices on th	e basis of age.			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23			if demanded in complaint: Yes No		
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY <i>(</i>)	C(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	n + #	DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE ONLY	SIGNAT/IRE OF AT	NOW OF THE REAL PROPERTY.				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AI	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUD	GE		